

From: Valdis.Kletnieks@vt.edu@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:41pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs:

I wish to register my comments regarding the proposed settlement.

In particular, although the Findings of Fact, paragraphs 29 and 30, show that undocumented file formats are a barrier to entry, there is no requirement in the PFJ that such formats be documented. This is a major barrier to software that wants to compete with Microsoft Office (such as the OpenOffice software project). This means that if I wish to be able to exchange Office-format documents, I have to run a Microsoft operating system so I can use *MICROSOFT* Office, since the OpenOffice project cannot support undocumented features in the file format. This is an onerous burden on those of us who wish to use other operating systems (quite possibly not even on Intel-based computers) where OpenOffice would be quite suitable and able to run, if the file formats were documented.

This has been *directly* against my interests, as it means that quite often, if I am send a Microsoft Word document, I must go and find a machine that has a Microsoft operating system on it so I can use Microsoft Word to read it (or have an entire seperate computer in my already-small cubicle just for this one purpose). And the *only* reason I cannot open all documents with OpenOffice (which is supported on the computer that I *do* have) is that the file formats are not documented.

In addition, I find that the proposed 'Definition J: Microsoft Middleware', and 'Definition K: Microsoft Middleware Product' are poorly written, and have major problems with them, allowing Microsoft to avoid any real control on its continued behavior. Microsoft should not be allowed to exempt version 7.0.0 as middleware, merely because the definition specified 7.0.

I also concur with most of the rest of the points commented on by Dan Kegel at <http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html>.

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